

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A remote office system comprising an onsite system for use in a home office and an offsite system for use at remote location distanced from the home office, wherein:
the onsite system comprises a central router adapted for connection to a computer network at the home office and adapted for connection to a telephone network;
the offsite system comprises an offsite unit including a single case, a modem router and a terminal server operative connected to each other and disposed in the single case, a patch panel connected to the terminal server and to the modem router, the patch panel being in the single case and accessible through a case panel, and a power cord operatively connected to the modem router and the terminal server and exiting the single case;
the offsite system further comprises dummy terminals connected to the patch panel;
wherein the offsite unit is pre-configured with a telephone dial-out number and a network address uniquely identifiable to the home office computer network, and allowing the offsite unit to contact and communicate with the home office computer network via the central router;
wherein information is transmitted from the dummy terminals to the home office computer network via the offsite unit, the telephone network and the central router and information is transmitted in reverse from the home office computer network via the central router, the telephone network, and the offsite unit, to the dummy terminals.
2. A remote office system as in Claim 1, wherein the entire modem router and entire terminal server are located inside the case and not accessible to a user.
3. A remote office system as in Claim 2, wherein the modem router and terminal server are locked inside the case in an interior space below a top internal panel and are not programmable and not configurable when inside the case below the top internal panel.

4. A remote office system as in Claim 1, wherein the patch panel is connected to from one to sixteen of said dummy terminals.

5. A remote office system as in Claim 3, wherein the case comprises a pressure relief valve for equalizing pressure in the interior space with surrounding atmospheric pressure.

6. A remote office system comprising an onsite system for use in an office with a computer network, and an offsite system for use at remote location distanced from the office, wherein:

the onsite system comprises a central router adapted for connection to the computer network at the office and adapted for connection to a wireless or wired long distance communications network;

the offsite system comprises a plurality of dummy computer terminals, and an offsite unit including means for connecting to the long distance communications network and to the plurality of dummy computer terminals, wherein said means are enclosed in a single transportable case, and wherein said means comprises pre-configuration so that said means automatically, upon being supplied with power and connection to the long distance communication network, contacts the onsite system central router and conducts two-way communication with the computer network at the office.

7. A remote office system as in Claim 6, wherein said pre-configuration comprises a pre-configured telephone dial-out number and a pre-configured network address uniquely identifying the office computer network.

8. A method of communication between a home office and a remote sales and services location, the method comprising:
providing an onsite system in a home office and an offsite system in a remote location distanced from the home office;

wherein the onsite system comprises a central router adapted for connection to a computer network at the home office and adapted for connection to a telephone network;

wherein the offsite system comprises a plurality of dummy terminals and an offsite unit, the offsite unit including a single case, a modem router and a terminal server operative connected to each other and disposed in the single case, a patch panel connected to the terminal server, the modem router, and the plurality of dummy terminals, the patch panel being in the single case and accessible through a case panel, and a power cord operatively connected to the modem router and the terminal server and exiting the single case;

the method further comprising pre-configuring the offsite unit, before placement of the offsite unit at the remote location, with a telephone dial-out number and a network address uniquely identifiable to the office computer network and means to automatically dial-up and communicate with the office computer network via the central router when power is supplied to the offsite unit.

9. A method as in Claim 8, wherein the entire modem router and entire terminal server are located inside the case and not accessible to a user.

10. A method as in Claim 9, wherein the modem router and terminal server are locked inside the case in an interior space below a top internal panel and are not programmable and not configurable when inside the case below the top internal panel.

11. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the patch panel is connected to from one to sixteen of said plurality of dummy terminals.

12. A remote office system as in Claim 10, wherein the case comprises a pressure relief valve for equalizing pressure in the interior space with surrounding atmospheric pressure.